

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 17 has been amended and claims 5-7, 13-15 and 19 have been cancelled. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 4, 8, 17 and 18 are rejected and claim 19 is cancelled, as are withdrawn claims 5-7 and 13-15.

Claim 19 is objected to but indicated as allowable if suitably rewritten in independent form in Item 4 of the Action.

Independent claim 17 is amended to include the recitation of dependent claim 19, thereby placing the respective independent claim 17 in allowable form in accordance with the indication of ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER of dependent claim 19 in Item 4 of the Action.

Claims 4, 8, 17 and 18 are pending and under consideration.

ITEM 3: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4, 8, AND 17-18 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER GERRISH (US 2001/0040720) PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 15, 2001 IN VIEW OF SUZUKI (US 6,335,821 PUBLISHED JANUARY 1, 2002)

The rejection is respectfully traversed, in view of the allowable status of independent claim 17, as amended, and its dependent claims 4, 8 and 18.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing has clearly distinguished the pending claims over the references and rejections of record. Further, all outstanding objections have been overcome by the foregoing. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Docket No.: 1448.1057


Serial No. 10/824,576

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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